

Camp Decatur Ala
August 26th 1865

Dear Father

Yours of the 18th ult
was just received. It found me well
& heartily enjoying the Chivalry of Camp life
as usual Just returned from a tramp
in the Country yesterday eve. had quite
a jolly time among those old Johnnies
during my stay (of four days) But upon my
return Charanot found things as well as
when I left. On Saturday the 24th I returned
found all in an uproar The first news
I hear is the Death of an amiable young
man. Capt Dobson of Co D The Provost M^r
at Summerville 20th south of Decatur
He was brutally murdered by an African. The
African was or had been Chasing wood &
Just returned to the Tavern where he
belonged walked up in the rear of the
Capt who was sitting between two Rebb
officers (Discussing the question of what shall
become of the negroes) and struck him in

The top of the head with the blade of
the ax killing the Capt Instantly. and
leaving the ax remain where it struck
tried to make his escape by running. But
one of those men close by the Capt seeing the
deed done, caught the negro and kept him
in custody until the unfavorable news
could be brought to the Regt. Immediately
he was ordered to Acutard, where he was
kept in prison until this day Sunday
while thus kept Confessed the deed also
told who it was that introduced the
idea. The mans name is Luna a high
wayman or horse thief & murderer.

The negro was executed. By the
W then sent immediately to take the
man immediately after the execution

Father I fear that blood letting has
not yet ceased. that there is more surplus
that will keep in demand until the
Country is thoroughly purged. was in great hope
that hostilities had ceased, and we could live
in peace once more. But if I am not mistaken
there is more war close at hand but from

a different source. yet hope I may be
mistaken for of a truth I am tired of
war, yet there is something fascinating
in its romance. If it be but in the blood of
a fellow being. tis a hard story but
a true one ⁱⁿ battle.
There is not now any prospect of
us coming home before the expiration of
our term which is rolling away
as fast as the wheels of time revolves
which is now but 6 months at most
The election in this state comes
off next Saturday after that I cannot
entirely give any use of so large an army as
there will be in the state. I suppose
President Johnson knows or will know
by that time what will be done.
I am glad to hear
of the prospect of corn, would be glad to
be at home to help sow wheat but fear
it is impossible have not meant
to write at present so will close
Your Son
George W. Harris

Camp Decatur Ala
August 26th 1865

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Letter from George W. Harris to his father
August 26 1865

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